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**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

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**SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE, 220th
MEETING**

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Chairman: Mr. Carlet R. AUGUSTE (Haiti).

AGENDA ITEM 77

Appeal for maximum support to efforts of newly emerging States for strengthening their independence (A/4443, A/SPC/49) (continued)

1. Mr. CALERO RODRIGUEZ (Brazil) said that at the 934th plenary meeting of the General Assembly, the Chairman of his delegation, speaking on agenda item 87, the proposed declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, (A/4502 and Corr.1) had defined real independence as the effective political, economic and cultural mastery of a country's wealth and heritage, their utilization in the service of the whole population, and the practice of liberty through political institutions based upon a representative régime with full freedom of opinion. The rapid pace at which colonialism was being liquidated sometimes made for the acceptance of hasty and purely formal concepts of independence, easily grasped and possessing a strong emotional appeal. Of the ninety-nine Members of the United Nations, some had been free for a thousand years and some for only a few months, but independence was a sacred word to all of them. Brazil could not look back without emotion to its own proclamation of independence, 130 years ago. It was therefore able to follow with deep understanding the awakening of new nations all over the world, and in Africa in particular. The African continent was linked to Brazil by the South Atlantic and by ties of blood. The Africans to whom Brazil had given shelter were now as important an element as any in Brazilian national life. Brazil was eager, therefore, that Africa and Latin America should join together in a common effort for the betterment of

mankind. It was glad to see Africa free because it looked upon colonialism as a relic of the past.

2. However, if freedom was not to remain simply a magic word, the new States would need maximum support in their efforts to strengthen their independence. Yet the United Nations must avoid a paternalistic or superior approach. The new States undoubtedly realized for themselves that independence was only the first step on a long and arduous road. Political freedom was only the preliminary to economic independence. Both political and economic independence had to be fought for in a many-sided battle and it was misleading to regard the danger as coming from one side only. The ghost of a dead colonialism was not the only spectre to be feared. Before they knew it, the new States by yielding to temptations painted in seemingly attractive colours could find their precious independence gone and their national personality nothing but the echo of a foreign voice.

3. How, then, could the new States be helped to strengthen their independence? In the economic field, technical assistance through the United Nations could make an important contribution. In the political field, however, as soon as the Organization told the new nations what to do—for example, if it advised them not to allow foreign military bases on their territory—it was denying them their freedom. Of course, if a new State was talked into joining a military alliance or to accepting foreign bases on its soil against its will, and came to the United Nations for help, it should receive it. However, he doubted the wisdom of deciding in principle that the new States were not as free to do as they pleased as were the older Members of the United Nations.

4. Brazil was eager to do anything in its power to support the newly acquired independence of the new States but it did not feel that the ideas put forward so far would lead to very practical results. Instead, the older Members should invite their new brothers to join in a common struggle against under-development, ignorance, poverty and disease. Old and new should work together, in mutual trust.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.